

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035841

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU

SUBJECT: FUTURE U.S.-KUWAITI MILITARY RELATIONS

REF: KUWAIT 647

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ACTING ASSTSEC SOBER

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN AND SHARE YOUR DESIRE TO GET USLOK ESTABLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO AS TO REGULARIZE POSITION OF COLONEL COX AND OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL ALREADY IN KUWAIT AS WELL AS THOSE OTHERS WHO ARE AND WILL BE NEEDED AS U.S.-KUWAITI DEFENSE PROGRAM DEVELOPS.

2. WE ARE SEEKING CIRCULAR 175 AUTHORITY FOR YOU TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOK FORMALLY ESTABLISHING USLOK AND ALSO REGULARIZING STATUS OF ALL OTHER U.S. MILITARY AND DOD CIVILIAN PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THIS PROGRAM. POINTS OUTSTANDING INCLUDE TIMING OF CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS AND
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PRECISE AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMIT-

TEE CHAIRMAN IS TO ESTABLISH MILITARY MISSIONS SUCH AS THIS ONE. WE ARE POUCHING YOU COPY OF UNCLEARED CIRCULAR 175 WHICH WILL EXPLAIN PROGRAM WE ARE PROPOSING.

3. AS STATE AND DEFENSE REPS EXPLAINED TO COX WHEN HE VISITED DEPARTMENT IN JANUARY, CONGRESSIONAL CEILINGS ON MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS ABROAD STEMMING FROM P.L. 93-475 WILL LIMIT USLOK PROPER TO NINE MEN. ADDITIONAL POSITIONS IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF USLOK WHICH YOU CONSIDER ESSENTIAL, CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT BE MADE PART OF USLOK, BUT THEY MAY BE COVERED BY TAFT OR SIMILAR REIMBURSABLE ARRANGEMENTS ONCE WE HAVE A FIRM AGREEMENT WITH THE GOK COVERING ALL OUR DOD PERSONNEL IN KUWAIT.

4. AS FOR COLONEL COX, WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT USCINCEUR MEANT BY ITS PHRASE "NORMALIZE COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS." THERE IS, IN ANY CASE, NO QUESTION THAT YOUR AUTHORITY TO SUPERVISE AND DIRECT HIS ACTIVITIES REMAINS INTACT. DOD/ISA AND DSAA HAVE BOTH ASSURED US THAT THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS TOKENS NO CHANGE WHATSOEVER IN YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISORY ROLE VIS-A-VIS COLONEL COX. SHOULD ANYTHING ARISE WHICH APPEARS TO CALL THAT RELATIONSHIP INTO QUESTION, YOU SHOULD INFORM ME DIRECTLY AND IMMEDIATELY.

5. WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO OBJECTION TO YOUR RECEIVING SMALL USCINCEUR TEAM FEB 19 TO DISCUSS FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH GOK TO CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN KUWAIT. SUGGESTED DRAFT AGREEMENT TEAM WILL HAVE WITH IT IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT ENVISIONED IN OUR CIRCULAR 175, BUT WE MUST STILL STRESS THAT 175 IS NOT REPEAT NOT YET CLEARED AND THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS YOU HAVE WITH USCINCEUR REPS MUST BE TENTATIVE PENDING APPROVAL OF CIRCULAR 175.

6. FINALLY, IN THAT YOUR NEED FOR EXTRA HELP IS NOW, AND IN THAT WE ANTICIPATE THE PASSAGE OF SOME ADDITIONAL TIME BEFORE WE HAVE ACHIEVED A FORMAL EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH THE GOK COVERING OUR DOD PERSONNEL IN KUWAIT, WE ARE INFORMING DOD THAT WE CONCUR IN USCINCEUR'S IMMEDIATELY PUTTING TOGETHER FMS SALES CASES COVERING: (1) FOUR-MAN TDY CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM AND (2) FOUR-MAN AIR DEFENSE TEAM (KUWAIT 546). ONCE WE HAVE FORMALIZED ARRANGEMENTS FOR USLOK AND OTHER DOD PERSONNEL IN KUWAIT, THESE TWO TEAMS WILL BE GENESIS OF TAFT PROGRAM FOR KUWAIT SIMILAR TO THOSE IN IRAN AND BEING DEVELOPED IN SAUDI ARABIA. CINCEUR TEAM WILL BE COMPETENT TO PROVIDE DETAILS ON THIS PLANNING.

7. YOUR 751 RECEIVED AFTER ABOVE DRAFTED. BELIEVE ABOVE
RESPONDS SUBSTANTIALY. INGERSOLL

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